

EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FROM REGISTRATION FEES**CHAPTER 726**

H.B. No. 1360

AN ACT**relating to the exemption of certain vehicles from registration fees.***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 502.453, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 502.453. GOVERNMENT-OWNED VEHICLES; PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES; FIRE-FIGHTING VEHICLES; COUNTY MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES; U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY VEHICLES. (a) The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer may annually apply for registration under Section 502.451 and is exempt from the payment of a registration fee under this chapter if the vehicle is:

(1) owned by and used exclusively in the service of:

(A) the United States;

(B) this state; or

(C) a county, municipality, or school district in this state;

(2) owned by a commercial transportation company and used exclusively to provide public school transportation services to a school district under Section 34.008, Education Code;

(3) designed and used exclusively for fire fighting;

(4) owned by a volunteer fire department and used exclusively in the conduct of department business;

(5) privately owned and used by a volunteer exclusively in county marine law enforcement activities, including rescue operations, under the direction of the sheriff's department; ~~or~~

(6) used by law enforcement under an alias for covert criminal investigations; or

(7) *owned by units of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary headquartered in Texas and used exclusively for conduct of United States Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary business and operations, including search and rescue, emergency communications, and disaster operations.*

(b) An application for registration under this section must be made by a person having the authority to certify that the vehicle meets the exemption requirements prescribed by Subsection (a). An application for registration under this section of a fire-fighting vehicle described by Subsection (a)(3) must include a reasonable description of the vehicle and of any fire-fighting equipment mounted on the vehicle. An application for registration under this section of a vehicle described by Subsection (a)(5) must include a statement signed by a person having the authority to act for a sheriff's department that the vehicle is used exclusively in marine law enforcement activities under the direction of the sheriff's department. *An application for registration under this section of a vehicle described by Subsection (a)(7) must include a statement signed by a person having authority to act for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary that the vehicle or trailer is used exclusively in fulfillment of an authorized mission of the United States Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary, including search and rescue, patrol, emergency communications, or disaster operations.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 8, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective June 17, 2015.

**COMPOSITION, GOVERNANCE, AND AUTHORITY OF A
REGIONAL TOLLWAY AUTHORITY THAT HAS OR
PROPOSES TO HAVE PROJECTS LOCATED IN COUNTIES
THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE AUTHORITY**

CHAPTER 727

H.B. No. 1394

AN ACT

relating to the composition, governance, and authority of a regional tollway authority that has or proposes to have projects located in counties that are not part of the authority.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 366.031, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) A county that is not part of an authority and in which an authority turnpike project is located becomes part of the authority on the date the authority determines that:

(1) recorded electronic toll collections at toll assessment facilities located in the county account for not less than four percent of all recorded electronic toll collections on all of the authority's turnpike projects; and

(2) the population of the county is at least four percent of the aggregate population of all the counties of the authority, not including the county that will become part of the authority.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 366, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 366.0311 to read as follows:

Sec. 366.0311. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PROJECTS LOCATED OUTSIDE AUTHORITY. *(a) At the time an authority enters into a primary construction contract for its first project to be located in a county that is not part of the authority, the authority shall create an advisory committee to advise the board on matters related to projects located in counties that are not part of the authority.*

(b) The advisory committee must be composed of:

(1) the director of the authority appointed by the governor, who serves as the chair of the committee;

(2) an additional director of the authority appointed by the presiding officer of the board as the presiding officer deems appropriate; and

(3) one member from each county that is not part of the authority and in which a project is proposed to be located, to be appointed by the commissioners court of that county at the time a primary construction contract for the project is entered into.

(c) An advisory committee member appointed under Subsection (b)(3) is not a director of the authority for the purposes of Section 366.251 or any other purpose.

(d) The board may adopt rules governing the operation and duties of an advisory committee.

SECTION 3. Section 366.161, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 366.161. TURNPIKE PROJECTS EXTENDING INTO OTHER COUNTIES. An authority may acquire, construct, operate, maintain, expand, or extend a turnpike project in:

(1) a county that is a part of the authority; or